

City of Salem, Massachusetts



**"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25 and  
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."**

The City Council Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs

met in the Council Chamber on December 5, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on

November 28, 2022 at 2:53 PM.

(This meeting is being recorded)

**ATTENDANCE**

**ABSENT WERE:** none. **Also in attendance were** City of Salem: Dave Knowlton, Director of Engineering, Janelle Rolke, Waste Reduction Coordinator

**SUBJECT(S)**

Amending an Ordinance relative to Pick up of large items

C Riccardi opened the meeting summarizing the matter in front of the Committee. Janelle Rolke provided an overview of the changes, including a summary of the history of bulk item pick up, what other nearby towns and cities charge for bulk item pick up. Historical spend was also provided, which included the number of bulk items picked up by WM the past six months and the cost to the city. For November, there were also 144 Mattresses picked up by someone other than WM, which has a \$50 fee (out of the total 784 items). It was noted 60-100 is the average number of mattress pick up in the winter, with more in the summer.

C Varela asked if we expect the fee we are charged to go up. J Rolke noted that our contracted cost will be going up 2% next year, which is written in the current contract we have. Our contract expires in 2025 and assuming new costs will be negotiated then.

C Cohen asked if it is noted in our contract that WM must pick up our Bulk Items, or if we could do this ourselves, or use another service? D Knowlton noted he will look into that avenue, but the city is not currently equipped to dispose of Bulk Items.

C Dominguez asked why we no longer could use Waste Management for mattress pick up. Janelle noted because of new state law, mattresses must be recycled, and WM cannot do that. C Cohen added that older mattresses cannot be burned due to toxic materials, which is what was occurring to them after being picked up.

C Dominguez asked why cities have different fees. Janelle noted various reasons could be the reason, include contracts and distance to the recycling or waste plant.

C Dominguez noted this fee might be more burdensome for renters. Janelle noted that reuse options will be shared with the city as well as noting that in the future there may be a possibility for a sliding scale.

C Prosniewski asked what the current process and fee is and confirmed that the new process could be called in by a tenant.

C Varela asked what the current fee (paid by the city) for mattress pick up is. Janelle noted that the city is currently paying \$50 plus a bag fee (\$5-9)

C Cohen noted that of the cities listed with fees, only few are items not under \$20. He feels going from zero fee to \$20 is a fair way to go. He feels the Health Dept needs to do monitoring of move outs, etc.

C Riccardi noted that there are cities and towns near us don't even offer bulk item pick up for a fee and that may be why they are not on this list – it isn't even an option or paid service offered by the municipality. Also asked what guidance we could provide for bulk item disposal, reuse options. Also noted that a hardship waiver might be something we could implement if needed

#### **Public Comment**

Filipe Zamborlini, 68 Perkins St, Salem; Noted that charging a fee is bad policy and hurting those in the point neighborhood the most. He does not feel that the policy to call in bulk items for removal is good. Many items are found dumped in his neighborhood and these should be covered by the general fund.

#### **End Public Comment**

C Riccardi asked J Rolke to explain what the implementation and communication of this new fee would look like. J Rolke noted literature, code reds, emails, etc will be sent to the city.

C Cohen noted that the city could be more aggressive with illegal dumping. He noted we should use the revenue (if any) to go towards education.

C Varela noted the Health Agent needs to tackle the items left unattended. He also feels the fee should be higher than \$20, or include two fees, one for bulk items, and one for mattresses.

C Riccardi commented that in her experience there are many families that can be overwhelmed with bulk items that truly cannot be reused – but does not feel the city is responsible for this. The city should be able to assign residents if they are looking to dispose of, but the cycle of dumping items that is noted is one that needs to stop.

C Prosniewski wanted to see education posted around the city.

C Cohen noted the repair cafes should be in different neighborhoods in the city.

C Dominguez wants this education to be bilingual

C Cohen made a motion to refer the matter back to council with positive recommendation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C Prosniewski -

Under discussion – C Varela noted that he wanted to amend to separate out bulk item fees at \$20 and add a different fees for mattresses fee at \$30. Knowing that these will cost \$50-60, we need to cover our fees.

C Cohen noted that the \$30 does not seem fair from an equity standpoint.

C Varela noted that a hardship waiver might be possible.

C Riccardi noted that the \$20 fee keeps this transitional period simple (one fee for all) as well as we are not entirely sure what our fees and revenues will be, and I expect the Department to keep an eye on expenses, and if we are watching it closely, an amendment can come in to increase the fee. I would not want to have this be a revenue generator for the city, just something that covers our cost.

No Second on the amendment motion – C Varela withdrew it.

On C Cohens motion to refer the matter back to council with positive recommendation for first passage, Hand vote, 5/0 - matter carried.

On the motion of C. Dominguez the meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.



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(Chairperson)